

MINUTES
CITY OF WOODSTOCK
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AWARENESS COMMISSION
July 12, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the City of Woodstock Cultural and Social Awareness Commission was called to order at 4:21 PM on Monday, July 12, 2021 by Chairperson Juanita Vega. This meeting was held per the Governor's Emergency Order due to COVID-19 with all members, Staff and the public attending remotely. This was a regular quarterly meeting of the Cultural and Social Awareness Commission, however it was erroneously listed as a Special meeting on the agenda for the July 12, 2021 meeting.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: None.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY: Jaci Krandel, Crystal Squires, Curtis Price and Chairperson Juanita Vega.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: John Kendall, Jose Rivera and Joe Starzynski.

STAFF PRESENT IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS: None.

STAFF ATTENDING REMOTELY: Human Resources Director/Staff Liaison Deb Schober and City Clerk Cindy Smiley.

OTHERS ATTENDING REMOTELY: None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by J. Krandel, second by C. Price, to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting as presented.

Ayes: Krandel, Squires, Price and Chairperson Vega. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: Kendall, Rivera and Starzynski.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A general discussion took place of various items on the Agenda.

Chairperson Vega gave a report on the first Diversity Celebration Sunday event held yesterday at the Opera House. She noted the singer picked songs and melodies from all of the Latin American regions, explaining where they were from and why the pieces were important to their respective cultures. She talked about the many positive comments she received from those in attendance. Chairperson Vega stated the Opera House Staff was wonderful and welcoming. She stated the musical group had a lot of equipment and needed much assistance from the Staff, who were great. She especially thanked Daniel Campbell and Joe McCormack for their help and support.

Chairperson Vega stated it was a great event, but it was not as well attended as she would have liked, with about 25 people in attendance. Chairperson Vega stated all the people who attended were there because she had personally invited them, opining this project will not work if only one person is

doing everything. She asked all Commissioners to work really hard to get people to the next event and to work together to make the DEI project a success.

Noting the work done by other Commission members, Ms. Schober suggested more advertising is needed. A brief discussion ensued of where the posters were placed and where additional posters may be put. Chairperson Vega opined a personal invitation is needed to get the project started. She asked the Commission members to support each other as they lead the various events and their respective topics.

Chairperson Vega stated she made videos of the event and asked Ms. Schober to place them on the webpage. She stated she also was asked by an attendee if the series could be live-streamed so more people can have access to it. Stating she is unsure of the ability to live-stream the events, Ms. Schober stated she would investigate putting the videos on Facebook. She also suggested contacting the Chamber to see about doing a Facebook Live of the events. Ms. Schober stated if the group wants a dedicated Facebook page for this series, it must be done through the City, noting the Commission should think of a name.

Ms. Schober suggested having a Commission meeting the Monday before the events to make sure everything is organized and ready. She noted this was the first event of a new series opining it will take a while to catch on. She also opined people will come to the different events that are of interest to them. Chairperson Vega asked all Commissioners to place the future Sunday events on their various social media presences.

Concerning funding, Ms. Schober stated while there is not enough to spend \$1,000 on each Sunday, there are funds in the account that can be used for costs. She stated Independence Health and Therapy donated \$250 to become a Level 2 sponsor, noting she will ask them which event they would like to sponsor. Chairperson Vega stated WELA donated \$250 for the Latin American event and Commissioner Rivera's supermarket also donated \$250. She stated she has paper products for the other events due to a \$100 donation received before the event.

Each Commissioner gave a brief report on their efforts to prepare for their respective Sundays.

Shelter and Food Disparity – August 8: Noting Commissioner Kendall was unable to attend this meeting, Ms. Schober stated he has three speakers lined up for the Shelter and Food Disparity Sunday – Carrie Freund from the Pioneer Center, Patrick Murfin from Compassion for Campers and Martha Hansen from the Woodstock Public Library. Ms. Schober stated, in addition, rights have been secured to show the movie, American Winter, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Religions – September 12: Commissioner Krandel stated she has been in contact with Interfaith Ministries and Rabbi Marilee Gordon, noting this event will focus on Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism.

LGBTQIA+ - October 10: Commissioner Squires stated she is working with Sophie Michaels to put their presentation together, which will be an LGBTQ 101, including how to be an ally. Noting the things that have been in the news recently, she opined this will be important for the community. A brief discussion followed of Ms. Michaels' expenses.

Understanding Race – November 14: Commissioner Price stated he is meeting next week with a group of minority athletic directors, which will help him get an idea of how he would like to present this topic, noting there is a lot to cover. He initiated a brief discussion concerning the title of the topic, noting he does not wish to put people on the defensive, but rather wishes to draw people in to open up and listen. It was the consensus of the Commission that the title remains “Understanding Race,” with it being a positive, educational experience.

Suggesting discussion on the remaining events be tabled to the next meeting, Chairperson Vega noted that all Commissioners will help with the December 12 World Holiday event.

Ms. Schober reminded the Commissioners that nametags are available in her office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment forthcoming from the Public.

ADJOURN

Motion by C. Price, second by C. Squires, to adjourn this Regular Meeting of the Cultural and Social Awareness Commission, to a Special Meeting at 4:15 PM on Monday, August 2, 2021 in the Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall.

Ayes: Krandel, Squires, Price and Chairperson Vega. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: Kendall, Rivera and Starzynski. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley,
City Clerk